

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

Volume XXXIV.....No. 90

RELIGIOUS SERVICES TO-DAY.

ANTHONY MEMORIAL CHURCH.—Morning.—REV. THOS. A. JACOB. Evening.—BISHOP FORTY.

BAPTIST MARINERS' TEMPLE.—REV. DR. HODGE. Morning and evening.

BLECKER STREET UNIVERSALIST CHURCH.—REV. DAY K. LEE. Morning and evening.

COOPER INSTITUTE.—FREE PREACHING BY REV. J. H. ALLEN. Morning and evening.

CHURCH OF THE STRANGERS.—Large Chapel, University, Washington square.—REV. DR. DENNIS. Morning and evening.

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION.—REV. DR. SCOTT. Morning and evening.

CHURCH OF THE REDEMPTION.—REV. U. ADAMS. Morning and evening.

CHURCH OF THE REFORMATION.—REV. ABBOTT BROWN. Morning and evening.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES.—REV. DR. WASHINGTON. Evening.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY.—REV. DR. G. F. KROTEL. Morning and evening.

REVEREND ROOMS.—SPIRITUALISTS. DR. H. P. FAIRFIELD. Morning and evening.

FIFTY-THIRD STREET BAPTIST CHURCH.—REV. W. H. FENDLTON. Morning and evening.

FREE CHURCH OF THE HOLY LIGHT.—REV. EASTMAN BROWN. Morning and evening.

FORTH-SECOND STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—REV. DR. SCOTT. Morning and evening.

THIRTY-FOURTH STREET REFORMED CHURCH.—REV. ALAN RILEY. Morning.

UNIVERSITY, Washington square.—BISHOP SHAW. Afternoon.

WASHINGTON HALL, Third avenue.—REV. D. K. LEE. Afternoon.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Sunday, March 21, 1869.

THE NEWS.

Europe.

The cable telegrams are dated March 20.

Mr. Gladstone's bill to disestablish the Irish Church was taken up in the British Parliament yesterday, and made the subject of a lengthy debate, in which a number of the prominent men of both parties took part. John Bright made a vigorous speech in support of the bill.

A despatch from Madrid announces the suppression of the Andalusian revolt.

Cuba.

The expedition containing the political prisoners banished to the island of Fernando Po will sail from Havana to-day.

Congress.

In the Senate yesterday Mr. Fenton introduced a bill to prohibit secret sales of gold, which was referred to the Committee on Finance. Mr. Abbott reported and asked immediate consideration of a bill to fix the status of judge advocates of the army; but Mr. Grimes objected, on the ground that it proposed too large a number of officers, and the bill was indefinitely postponed. Mr. Sumner introduced a joint resolution to reduce ocean postage to the rates of postage on land. At the expiration of the morning hour the bill to repeal the Tenure of Office act came up as unfinished business, when Mr. Vickers made an argument in favor of repeal. Mr. Thayer also advocated repeal, declaring that the act was only passed to check the career of Andrew Johnson after he had abandoned his party. One reason why he desired repeal was to enable President Grant to remove the Johnson men and corporateists still in office. Mr. Drake was in favor of repeal, but would not vote for suspension, which was, but another method of putting the President upon probation. He wanted to leave the President free to turn out corrupt officers and others unfriendly to the republican party. Mr. Morrill denied that the act was intended merely as a check upon Mr. Johnson, but he would gladly see it modified, but neither suspended nor repealed. He dissented from the views expressed by republican Senators in regard to government patronage, and denounced the doctrine of "the victors belong the spoils" as a source of great national evil. Mr. Cassedy favored repeal, contending that under the constitution the power of removal was vested in the President alone, and was a necessary power in order to secure faithful administration of duties. The doctrine implied in the law that the power of removal could be regulated by legislation was a dangerous heresy, and its logical conclusion was that Congress had the right to deprive the President of that power altogether. At half-past four o'clock, without taking any action on the bill, the Senate adjourned.

Miscellaneous.

The counsel of young Twitchell, who is to be executed next month in Philadelphia for the murder of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Hill, has written a letter denying the statements recently published by the *Easton Argus* of an alleged interview between Twitchell and his pastor.

The President has appointed James W. Haines, Frederick A. Tridie and William Sherman commissioners to examine and report on the completed route of the Central Pacific Railroad, vice Bigler, Denver and Henley, removed.

The collectors of internal revenue in Tennessee have inaugurated a vigorous campaign against the whiskey ring in that State. Collector Wilson, of the Third district, aided by a company of United States troops, is operating in the mountain counties, where his assistants have succeeded in confiscating five different illicit distilleries.

Thomas Harland, deputy commissioner of the internal revenue, has resigned that position, his resignation to take effect as soon as his successor is made familiar with the duties of the office.

The Senate yesterday confirmed several nominations sent in by President Grant. Among the number was that of William A. Richardson to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

A resolution has been introduced in the Lower House of the Arkansas Legislature declaring that the new Speaker is a non-resident of the State, and therefore disqualified from holding office. A resolution was also introduced accusing the Clerk of the House of malfeasance in office.

The Common Council of St. Louis has granted to the several railroad companies contending in that city the privilege of extending their tracks through the streets to the levee. This will greatly facilitate the grain business of the State, as it will enable loaded cars to be run through from Western Missouri to New York without breaking bulk.

The Pensacola and Georgia Railroad and the Tallahassee Railroad of Florida were sold yesterday at public sale. The first named road was sold for \$1,220,000, and the Tallahassee road brought but \$190,000.

The City.

The nitro-glycerine found in a boat at the foot of Whitehall street on Thursday was shipped from the Glycerine Company's works at Lodi, N. J., and consigned to the agent of the United States government, at Savannah, Ga. The glycerine, which was seized by the Commissioner, is valued at \$615.

In the Supreme Court, before Judge Barnard, the case of James Fisk, Jr., vs. The Union Pacific Railroad Company came up yesterday, pursuant to adjournment. Thomas C. Durant, vice president of the company, was examined relative to the connection of the Credit Mobilier with the railroad company, and at the conclusion of his testimony the case was further adjourned until Monday, at ten A. M. On Thursday last Judge Barnard issued an order appointing W. Tweed, Jr., receiver of the Credit Mobilier in this State, but was unable to find any books, bonds or other property belonging to the association. An affidavit was read from Mr. Fisk, setting forth that he feared it was the intention of parties interested to remove the property of the Union Pacific Railroad out of this State, in violation of the injunction already granted. Mr. Fisk has been informed that the railroad company has a secret ser-

vice fund amounting to \$700,000, to be used for corrupt purposes, of which fund over \$600,000 were expended by the directors within a single year in bribes to members of Congress and officers of the United States government, and that millions of dollars have been given in an indirect manner to such members and officers.

Charles Smith, a man twenty-seven years of age, living at 116 Madison street, yesterday morning committed suicide by leaping from a third story window. The deceased had been very ill, and committed the act while laboring under a fit of temporary insanity.

The work of removing the remains of persons buried in the Dutch Reformed burying ground, on First avenue, between 124th and 125th streets commenced on Friday last. Nearly all the remains will be reinterred in Woodlawn Cemetery, Westchester county.

The stock market yesterday was weak and declined, particularly for Pacific Mail and New York Central. Gold was steady in the vicinity of 131, which was its final closing price.

The aggregate amount of business consummated in commercial circles yesterday was light, the markets with but few exceptions being exceedingly quiet. Coffee was dull and heavy. Cotton was in good demand, principally for export, but prices were irregular, closing at about 25½c. for middling upland. Sugar—Raw was active and 11½c. a lb., higher, fair to good refining Cuba closing at 11½c. a lb., while refined was freely sought after and 12½c. a lb., higher, hard selling at 10½c. a lb. On "Change" flour was dull and heavy, while wheat was slow of sale and lower. Corn was in moderate demand and rather more steady in value. Oats were unchanged. Pork was dull and prices depreciated about 25c. per bbl. Beef and lard were but little inquired for and prices favored the buyer. Petroleum, though quiet, was higher, crude in bulk closing at 17c. and refined at 30½c. Naval stores were generally steady.

Prominent Arrivals in the City.

Judge R. R. Sloan, of Ohio; General E. W. Leavenworth, of Syracuse; Comptroller W. F. Allen, of Albany; Congressman L. S. Trimble, of Kentucky, and Colonel S. Tate, of Tennessee, are at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

Commander Mead of the United States Navy, and G. G. Baylor, of Georgia, are at the Astor House. A. Van Vechten, of Albany, and E. L. Brewster, of Chicago, are at the Hoffman House.

Colonel F. D. Curtis, of Troy; S. L. Griffith, of Little Rock, Ark.; Judge Merriam, of Washington, and S. M. Randolph, of St. Louis, are at the Metropolitan Hotel.

Dr. Joseph S. C. Rowland, of Fort Smith, Ark.; S. M. Mathews, of Tennessee; C. H. McOmnan, and R. S. Baker, of Massachusetts, are at the Maitly House.

Colonel R. H. Delaney, of Virginia; Colonel S. M. Johnson, of Washington, and W. A. Dudley, Kentucky, are at the New York Hotel.

Colonel B. C. Butler, of Luzerne; Frederick Hammond, of Worcester, Mass., and Ed. Campbell, of Albany, are at the Westmoreland Hotel.

Galusha A. Grow, of Pennsylvania; L. B. French, of Ohio; J. L. Howard, of Hartford, and Roswell Hart, of Rochester, are at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

Prominent Departures.

D. C. Littlejohn left yesterday for Albany. W. H. Hennes for Philadelphia. J. H. Harwood for St. Paul, Minn.; Richard Smith, of Ohio, for California, and Professor Thorpe for St. Louis.

Mr. and Mrs. James B. Mackenzie, Miss Adrienne Webster, New York; Dr. R. H. Townsend, C. D. de St. Sauveur, Paris; A. J. Gschelmer, Philadelphia; Mr. and Mrs. Cleopatra, Paris; Mile. M. Blanchard, New York; Mr. A. Dennette, Havana; Mr. and Mrs. Richardson, Boston; Mrs. Signigo and child, Paris; Miss M. M. Redeyn, Mr. Lechaux, France; Mr. and Mrs. Lapage, N. Hart, Jackson; J. J. Hart, New York; F. de Baelen, W. W. Emile Gullion, Mr. and Mrs. A. Morin, sailed yesterday in the French steamer *Pereire* for France.

Christianity and Our Era—The New Missionary Agencies.

We have had occasion more than once in these columns already to call attention to the fact that in these latter years of the nineteenth century the religion which proudly claims for its founder Jesus of Nazareth is in a peculiarly flourishing and hopeful condition. Numerically it is far from being the largest religious body. Compared with Buddhism in this particular Christianity looks very small indeed. Numbers, however, are not the only nor the surest test of strength. Buddhism makes no more conquests, and is identified with a civilization which is doomed and must soon pass away. Christianity, on the other hand, is full of youthful energy. Its followers are yet in the minority, if it has much work to do and many conquests to make, it is also the most powerful force in the shape of religion which the world now knows, or, indeed, has known for many centuries. In one sense it represents, in another sense it controls, the life, the plth, the enterprise of modern times. Whatever has a right to be called "modern" as distinguished from "ancient" civilization is Christian in its origin and in its main characteristics. Steam power, in its manifold applications, the electric telegraph, the printing press—these and all the other forces which are rapidly changing the face of the globe and transforming and elevating human society—have been developed under Christianity, and they are now her willing handmaids.

Time was when the churches dreaded the introduction of every new thing. Christianity was always in danger when science made any fresh conquests. It has at length been demonstrated that science, after all, is a more powerful protector of Christianity than all the churches put together. It does not undermine; it strengthens the foundations. It does not mar; it rather reveals and enhances the beauty and attractiveness. Our Sunday and Monday HERALDS afford a striking illustration of what one of the most potent of modern agencies can do and what it is doing in the interest of Christianity. The press can no longer be said to be divorced from religion.

On Sunday we spread out before our readers a full account of the doings of all the churches in every section of Christendom. On Monday, through our columns, the preachers repeat their sermons to fresh audiences, multiplied more than a hundred-fold. It is a new missionary movement. A large portion of the force at our command is thus regularly and systematically devoted to the help of the churches, to the service of Christianity. We yield up our space willingly; we grudge neither the labor nor the expense. But we shall not rest contented until we see more life in the churches, more activity, more power in the pulpit. Our example is already being extensively followed. The movement is certain to become more and more general. The press has thus far come—it is coming more and more—to the help of the preachers. It will be their own fault if they do not make full use of the opportunity. They never have had such an opportunity. Christianity cannot but gain. The churches and the preachers may not prove themselves equal to the occasion. Time will soon reveal the fact; but the time is precious.

The publicity which we have given for some time past to ecclesiastical matters has already produced fruit. It has always seemed to us that those immense gatherings which were wont to take place in this city in the month of May, pleasant and profitable though they may have been to many, were undignified, and, in a certain sense, unworthy of that sacred cause in whose name and behalf they were held. They had but one object, and that object was money. To secure this object the public meeting and the many speeches were deemed necessary. Since the HERALD commenced to take the churches in hand it is found that to court publicity is very much a work of supererogation. That which is made known everywhere cannot be made more public. That good cause which is set before our million readers, and which so effectively speaks for itself, requires no further advocacy. We are not surprised, therefore, to learn that the May meetings are not to take place this year. Even the Evangelical Alliance has concluded that it is unnecessary for the present to assemble the lights of the Protestant world in this city. We are glad to see our labors so handsomely acknowledged. The church societies will not be the poorer because the anniversaries have been discontinued. The purse strings of our New York merchant princes are far more likely to yield to the smart advocacy of the newspaper than to long-winded anniversary orations. We consider this one good result already gained.

Other results will follow. We certainly expect that the style and tone of pulpit oratory will be greatly improved. We want ideas. We want taste and elegance and oratorical power, of course; but we want ideas above all. The pulpit has been a little too slow. There has been too much talking for talking's sake. Anything was good enough if only it covered the requisite time. The preacher must now be prepared to see himself in print and to know that his intellectual measure is taken by thousands who never saw or heard him. This publicity will no doubt be the ruin of some; it will also be the making of many. It will no longer be possible to complain in this city or neighborhood that the lights of the pulpit are hid under a bushel. This new missionary movement, which we have instituted and which we identify ourselves, whatever may be its effect upon individuals or upon church organizations, cannot fail to have a powerful influence in hastening the day when Christianity shall be the religion of the entire family of man. The press is to be the great power of the future. With the press at her back Christianity need fear no foe.

The Advancing Conflagration in Cuba.

An intelligent examination of the telegraphic advices from Cuba shows that the revolutionary conflagration is advancing westward irresistibly, notwithstanding the repeated reports from Havana of the insurgent defeats. In fact, it is these reports of Spanish successes which give us the first intimation of the appearance of the revolutionists at new points. The last telegrams advise us of the appearance of an insurgent force at Macagua and the great activity of others at Bolondron. The place first named is the eastern terminus of the system of railroads radiating from Havana, Matamoros and Cardenas, and the second is an important point in the heart of the great sugar district of Cuba. When this district becomes involved in the revolution, as has all the country east of it, a vital blow will be struck at the resources of the Spanish government. These are now derived entirely from the slave labor of the Western Department, and the recent decree of the Cuban revolutionists establishing the unconditional abolition of slavery ensures the early destruction of the system.

THE TENURE OF OFFICE LAW—COUNTING NOSES.

We have before us several conflicting estimates of the probable vote of the Senate on the repeal of the Tenure of Office law. From these estimates, or conjectures, rather, we get the admission from both sides that the result is doubtful. The democrats, in their zeal for the repeal, have, we apprehend, been scarred some of the carpet-baggers over to the other side. But still the pressure of the office-seekers for the repeal is telling in the radical ranks, and the repealers are sanguine of success, for they have the right on their side and the President.

AN IMPORTANT BILL SIGNED.—The President has signed the bill establishing equal rights to blacks with whites in the District of Columbia, to act as jurors, to hold office, &c., the right of suffrage having been established heretofore. This is an important bill, for it is the beginning of the end in reference to the rights of negroes to hold office. The abolition of slavery commenced in the District of Columbia, and so did negro suffrage. The third and last step in this programme of "equal rights" has now been taken in the same district, and it is tantamount, under the circumstances, to a settlement of the question throughout the United States.

MANAGING THE MORMONS.—The *Indianapolis Journal* says the "polygamy of Salt Lake must be broken up as a condition of society." This, from a republican organ, is the first outspoken expression of the party in support of the plank in its platform which declared polygamy and slavery "twin relics of barbarism." If the views of the *Journal*—which represent those of Senator Morton—are to be regarded as an index of the manner in which the Mormons are to be managed, it might be well for Brigham Young to bring out in his Salt Lake City theatre a new version of the farce of "A Manager in Difficulties."

THE IRISH CHURCH DISESTABLISHMENT DISCUSSION.—Our cable despatches received last night inform us that the discussion upon the bill to disestablish the Irish Church was being continued in the British Parliament. John Bright spoke strongly in favor of the bill and in the course of his remarks took occasion to glance across the Atlantic and review the anti-British feeling existing here among our Irish adopted citizens.

POOR VIRGINIA.—The *Richmond Enquirer*—once the proud organ of the aristocratic democracy of the once proud Commonwealth of Virginia—is in the doldrums. According to its notions Virginia "has gone to pieces" by Congressional action. Too late. Its own politicians sent it to the other place long ago.

"HAVE WE A DEMOCRATIC PARTY AMONG US?" is the inquiry of the *Louisville Courier-Journal*. Doubtful. The Tammany National Convention sent it sky high last July—on Independence Day.

"Is Being Done."

Shall we say "the house is building" rather than "the house is being built"? It matters very little, inasmuch as speaking either way there can be no mistake as to what we mean. But shall we say "the man is robbing" and "the woman is washing" when we mean, not that the man is robbing or the woman washing, but that some one is robbing the man and some one washing the woman; in short, when we mean as nearly as possible the direct contrary of what our words would import. To speak thus would be to defeat the very object of speech, which, epigrams apart, is to convey impressions exactly from one mind to another. Yet we are asked to do this—to say "the woman is washing" when we mean that she is being washed—because the latter phrase violates some rules of grammar. We are asked, in short, to violate the first principle of speech and sacrifice perspicuity to a fantastical sense of propriety.

One of the magazines devoted to supplying the public with original matter has lately laid before its readers a digest of a discussion that fills several pages of Gould Brown's Grammar of English grammars on the form "Is Being Done." Siding with the weight of authority against the expression, the writer in the magazine contributes no idea of his own and furnishes no new argument, unless we accept as an argument the declaration that his grandmother disliked this location. The most notable points of reasoning presented are those that have been in use these twenty years. They are of the sort that have been happily called fictitious examples, imagined on purpose to make usage seem wrong. One of the examples starts from the assumption that the verbs "to be" and "to exist" are perfect synonyms. Were this true it would follow that "is being done" is equivalent to "exists existing done;" and it is held by the writer before us that the supremely ridiculous sound of this must be an unanswerable reason against the first form. Again, the expression is said to be inadmissible because, as it associates a present and a past participle, it "brings preposterously together" words that cannot have relation. Here the error begins in the assumption as to synonyms. To be and to exist are not synonyms. They are very far from it. They have quite different points of significance, are still more widely different in their uses, and are as far as the poles apart in grammatical character, inasmuch as one is especially an auxiliary verb and the other is not. The writer who does not recognize the peculiar character of the auxiliary verbs, and who for a moment supposes that he can put any other verb in the place of one of these, is ignorant of our language. Apply the magazine arguments strictly and we cannot say "the man is dead," though we hold that such an expression would be nevertheless good English. For instance, "the man is," argues the magazine, is equivalent to "the man exists," and you cannot add "dead" to such a form, since this would "bring preposterously together" inconsistent terms; for a man dead no longer exists.

If we trace to its real source this difficulty in regard to "Is Being Done" we find that we are discussing the philosophy of grammar in regard to active and passive voices. Active and passive voices are in the very nature of the primary actions of the human intellect; and if a language does not possess forms of expression adequate to the intellectual operations of the people that use it this is a certain indication that the forms it has must be developed or wrested to the occasion that arises. How can we in English, where the voice is passive and the time the present, associate such attributes as the participle conveys? How can we do this without ambiguity in the voice? Can we do it by any use of the present participle? The difficulty is that the most essential characteristic of this form of speech is that it expresses action. To whatever word this terminal "ing" is affixed it adds to the previous sense of that word the idea of activity—as watching, walking, running. And it is ignoring the very nature and growth of our language not to consider this; for the participle is the addition to the word of another word expressing action. It is as if we should say of a man that he is working, doing, talking, eating, and then, for convenience and facility of utterance, drop the *do*. If, then, we use this active for a passive—if we take a class of words that in their nature express action and use them for the direct contrary, it is an abuse in language and must lead to that reproach of speech—ambiguity.

If we say the house is building, a storm is brewing, there is but little fault to find, because there is no danger of doubt. From the nature of the case but one interpretation can be put on the words, as a storm does not brew also nor a house build itself. Yet this expression only stands on sufferance and for want of a better, since, after all, the house is doing nothing, and so cannot be build doing. But there are many more instances in which the expression must mislead. Suppose, to slightly modify an expression in Shakespeare, we should say Polonius is at supper, "not where he eats, but where he is eating," who would guess what is meant? It was because of difficulties like this that so sound a reasoner and clear a writer as Dr. Johnson marked with reprobation this manner of forming passives. "There is," he says, "another manner of using the active participle, which gives it a passive signification. This is, in my opinion, a vicious expression." The difficulty in regard to ambiguity was apparent in the earliest use of this form of speech, whence a distinction was made by the prefix "a," equivalent to at. Now we find, in fact, that the form before us supplies exactly the loss of that prefix. But that old provision has passed out of use; the occasion for it remains, and we have another form of speech that serves as its equivalent, and so serves through the habit of the people taking any refuge that the spirit of the language affords against uncertainty in meaning. Why, then, may we not employ a form that prevents doubt, saves circumlocution and has a distinct and definite use? Because, say the grammarians, it is a new-fangled form, and we have not such familiarity with it that we can give it a place within our rules.

Perhaps this is because you take a small and erroneous view of your rules. Here, for instance, is a fact in English grammar due to the genius of the language—passive verbs are always compound. And why shall we not

under this rule, where occasion requires, make compound participles also? Clearly, we may do this. And how shall we make such a participle? Not by putting together two participles of the same voice, but by qualifying the activity of the present with the other form. Such a compound expression ought, in parsing, to be regarded as compound nominatives are, because it is essentially single—it is the name of one conception; and, having thus applied certain words as the name of a common conception, why may we not assert of that conception anything we choose—that is, apply to it any verb in the language? Shall we stop at the word "is" because a portion of our expression in another phase of its grammatical life is related to that word? Shall we be afraid of such patent nonsense as "exists existing" or "is being?" We might as well hesitate to say "it snows" because we cannot also say "we snow, you snow, they snow."

The New Game Law.

The law for the protection of game, introduced in the Assembly by Mr. Skeels, is a decided improvement on anything that our sportsmen have had heretofore. It prevents all deer shooting on Long Island for five years, and all woodcock, quail and partridge shooting in the same locality for the same term, unless by a person who has stocked the land with game. These provisions will hardly meet with general approval. Woodcock and partridges cannot be obtained to stock any place with, and sportsmen are not so selfish as to expect to keep the shooting all to themselves simply because they were fortunate enough to obtain a few quail during the past winter. There is another provision—that no set nets or pounds shall be used in any of the waters of this State—which must have got in through oversight, as it would prevent the shad fishing entirely by citizens of New York in the Hudson river, and hand the entire business over to Jersey men. It would also strike a heavy blow at the Long Island fishermen, who use pounds and make the Sound shore of Connecticut a profitable rendezvous for that class of citizens. With these and some other minor exceptions the law is a good one and will give universal satisfaction.

It reduces the time for killing deer to the three months of October, November and December; it allows woodcock shooting to commence on the Fourth of July, and stops the sale of all quail, partridges, prairie chickens and fresh venison on the 1st of March. It forbids the use of batteries in the South Bay, prohibits sailing for ducks or killing them at night; all of which are most excellent enactments. Trout fishing commences on the 1st of March on Long Island and on the 1st of April in the rest of the State. Most of the provisions are sensible and consistent, and, even if the law is passed in its present state, it will be in the main correct.

The Detective Difficulty.

There seems a disposition to make Young, recently the detective captain, the victim for shortcomings not his, but due in fact to the bad system of which he was a part. It is the system that is to blame. He did not invent it and could not change it if he ever had any desire to. Nothing can be worse on its face than the idea of making thieves and the police mere confederates; yet this thing is constantly done by the system of compounding crimes to recover property. By this system the rogue is never in danger. He steals in the hope of getting off with his plunder, but in the certainty that if pursuit becomes hot a timely surrender will insure his safety. He surrenders and the plunder is divided between the owner and the detectives. Thus, when a thief succeeds he steals for himself, but when he fails he steals for the detectives. The police is thus directly interested in the cultivation of crime, in encouraging robberies on a grand scale, and in never driving great rogues to such extremes as would compel them to give up their operations. We have the same system on a smaller scale in other parts of the police administration. All the dens of iniquity in this town are permitted because they serve the police as convenient traps in which to catch the rogues who drift this way.

GOOD CHANCE FOR A SMELLING COMMITTEE.—If the Legislature wants to send down any more committees to nose out the iniquities of this city it may send one to the pig yards up town that are now proving their sweetness to the Board of Health.

PARIS FASHIONS DURING LENT.—During Lent our Paris fashions correspondent has been to church, as in duty bound, and our lady readers are therefore informed to-day how the fair penitents dress who form the largest part of the fashionable congregation of Father Felix at the cathedral of Notre Dame. Old fashioned sedan chairs have been revived in Paris, and ladies of the faubourg Saint Germain now go to church in them and not on the velocipedes recommended for that purpose by Henry Ward Beecher. The pastor of Plymouth Church might also recommend the new money bag—"a long, dangling alms pouch made of artificial flowers"—which is now worn in full dress at the Paris churches. But, like most Americans, he cannot have much veneration for the old clothes, the cocked hats and gray coats of Napoleon the First, which were lately bequeathed by the cousin of the present Emperor, the Princess Bacciocchi, to the Museum of Sovereigns at the Louvre.

WHICH DOES HE MEAN?—Carl Schurz says that the great abuses in the appointments to office are due to the fact that place is given for personal or political favoritism. Does this refer to the Senator's appeal to Grant to make some appointments on his account in Missouri, or to Grant's reply that he knew the people of Missouri better than Schurz did?

TOO MANY LAWYERS.—Sprague says there are too many lawyers in Congress. There are too many everywhere. There is too much law and too little justice in the whole machinery of government, national, State and municipal—especially municipal.

NOT CREDITABLE.—Dr. Parker's lectures on "The House we Live In" are not up to the Doctor's fame as a surgeon. They are, in fact, jejune and frothy. Even within professional lines lecturing is not the Doctor's forte. It is a result of our system of education that so few of our medical teachers are even respectable in the lecture room?

Street Obstructions and Misdirected Official Zeal.

The recent raid upon the flagpoles and certain projecting signs on Broadway afforded the crows brigade a signal opportunity for displaying their valor and illustrating the official, if sometimes misdirected, zeal of the much maligned Street Commissioners and Inspectors. It also afforded a fresh illustration of the fact that "the powers that be" of every class are liable to periodical and violent outbursts of official zeal, as well as of the additional fact that they almost always strain at a gnat and swallow a camel. The sidewalks of our most frequented thoroughfares and busiest streets are often blocked up for miles with piles of boxes or hogsheds or bricks and other building materials, without any effectual attempt to remove these obstructions for the convenience of the over-patient public. In many a street a double line of wagons and carts is permitted to extend throughout its entire length almost every night in the year, like an emigrant train camping out on the Western plains; but suddenly an old statute is discovered and rigidly enforced, prohibiting flagpoles and signs from running out over the street. No more banners must be hung on the outer walls, and those who seek for a sign shall not find it projecting anywhere from White street to Thirty-first street.

Occasionally, while all is quiet at Police Headquarters, a startling flourish of trumpets is heard, "the force" is marshalled in battle array, and special care is taken that newspaper reporters shall be summoned in order to chronicle duly the exploits of the night. But, after all, the result is usually ridiculously insignificant. *Parturiunt montes, nascetur ridiculus mus*. A few frightened, half-clad girls are dragged from a dance cellar in Water street, a few bottles of rotgut are smashed at a low corner grocery, a few three-card monte tables are upset in some dingy out-of-the-way den, perhaps even two little boys may be caught playing loss penny with buttons in the City of Churches; but of the palaces devoted to heavy gambling or to other forms of fashionable vice—palaces so numerous within the limits of Thirtieth and Twenty-seventh streets, that, if placed side by side, they would form, externally at least, a splendid avenue, a broadway to hell—of all these not one is disturbed. The parents of many a ruined son or of many a ruined daughter may ask, "Why not?" We can only refer them to the "powers that be" for an answer.

AN ARGUMENT.—Carl Schurz's reason for not voting for the repeal of the Civil Tenure bill now is that he wants to vote for the repeal by and by. He does not want to deprive himself of the pleasure of voting against the repeal next session.

DANGEROUS.—There is a society here that is called the Association for the Prevention of Gambling. Its method of preventing this vice is to keep spies on duty at the gambling places to get the names of visitors, and then the society communicates with the employers or business partners or other persons interested in the honesty of the person, reporting the fact of his visit to such places. Now, we have an idea that a society acting on these principles is worse than the vice it fights against. The dishonesty that may be in gambling is but one phase of dishonesty; but here is the whole figure of that moral horror. Even with those who believe in the above society its motive is, perhaps, all that justifies it. But suppose abuses—suppose this damaging report to be made falsely, through malice. What then? This society must be wrong sometimes. It is as likely to be deceived in its agents as others are. Who started here this Italian institution?

IMPROVEMENT LOAN.—That is a good proposition now before the State Senate to pay for local improvements done by the city authorities on a different plan from the one hitherto in use. By any considerable street opening or other improvement the whole city—every lot in it—is benefited, and therefore the whole city should pay; but property near the improvement receives more benefit, and therefore should pay a larger proportion. The plan is to meet these points by assessing part of the cost, as now, and paying part by an issue of city stock.

ABOUT A FISH BALL.—The very elegant and magnanimous people who got up the inauguration ball refuse to pay for their supper. They agreed to give the caterer half the proceeds, and he took the chances and went in for a speculation; but as the proceeds were heavy they want to cheat him. Inauguration balls are always got up by men of this class. There was a man in Pennsylvania once who would steal acorns from a blind hog, but he was not so bad as these fellows.

DEBACRATION.—Nothing can be more revolting to humanity than that carrying up of a dead friend or relative called a post-mortem examination. Only the necessities of public safety ever justify this proceeding where there are friends to be shocked and grieved by it. It should never be done where there is no doubt as to the cause of death. Yet it is said that there is an arrangement about our Coroners' offices to force these examinations where they are not necessary in order to collect the fees payable in these cases. Where will this rapidly stop?

MUNICIPAL RING IN PARIS.—They have a municipal ring also in the French capital. It is composed of Baron Haussmann. He does astonishing things and makes the city pay, and pay at a terrible rate. The ring is even a more expensive luxury there than here; but the difference is that there they have something to show for the money when it is gone.

THE CRY IS "STILL THEY COME."—Israel Washburne has been appointed Collector of the port of Portland, with Falmouth annexed. Thus is another of the Washburne family provided for. Who comes next?

OVER THEY GO.—Accounts of railroad accidents multiply. It has become fashionable nowadays for trains to take a lively turn down an embankment, giving passengers the benefit of the gyrations. The last case occurred on the Grand Trunk Railway in Canada, sending topsy turvy the passengers in one of those inviting travelling vehicles called palatial sleeping cars. Elegance did not prevent occupants from receiving severe contusions.